

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 63.

Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial, 1992–2005

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
	Number	Percent					
<i>All disabled beneficiaries</i>							
1999	448,072	100.0	10.3	17.8	28.3	30.8	12.8
2000	460,122	100.0	10.1	17.2	28.3	30.4	14.0
2001	499,386	100.0	9.2	16.7	28.1	31.1	14.8
2002	579,973	100.0	8.5	17.1	28.2	31.3	14.8
2003	613,282	100.0	7.6	17.7	28.1	31.4	15.2
2004	622,803	100.0	7.1	18.4	27.3	30.6	16.6
2005	604,742	100.0	6.9	18.2	27.1	31.1	16.7
<i>Workers</i>							
1992	487,164	100.0	10.7	22.9	28.4	29.6	8.4
1993	546,532	100.0	10.4	22.7	27.6	29.8	9.5
1994	578,664	100.0	10.2	21.5	25.9	28.8	13.6
1995	547,145	100.0	10.6	20.8	25.4	29.4	13.8
1996	542,493	100.0	10.2	19.6	24.7	30.6	14.8
1997	454,054	100.0	10.6	18.5	25.7	30.5	14.6
1998	426,309	100.0	10.8	18.3	27.8	30.9	12.2
1999	421,594	100.0	10.6	17.4	29.3	30.1	12.5
2000	434,280	100.0	10.4	16.7	29.3	29.8	13.7
2001	473,594	100.0	9.6	16.3	29.0	30.5	14.6
2002	550,423	100.0	8.8	16.8	29.2	30.6	14.6
2003	580,751	100.0	7.9	17.4	29.1	30.6	14.9
2004	587,474	100.0	7.4	18.1	28.3	29.8	16.4
2005	569,978	100.0	7.2	18.0	28.2	30.2	16.4
<i>Widow(er)s</i>							
1999	9,685	100.0	5.6	29.1	31.8	22.7	10.8
2000	8,989	100.0	5.3	29.0	31.4	22.3	12.0
2001	8,701	100.0	4.6	27.6	31.1	22.9	13.6
2002	9,069	100.0	4.7	26.2	32.4	23.7	13.0
2003	9,534	100.0	4.2	26.5	32.7	23.3	13.4
2004	10,089	100.0	3.6	25.8	32.2	24.0	14.3
2005	10,069	100.0	3.8	24.7	32.8	24.3	14.4

(Continued)

Table 63.
Percentage distribution of final medical denials, by year of application and reason for denial,
1992–2005—Continued

Year	Total		Impairment did not or is not expected to last 12 months	Impairment is not severe	Able to do usual past work	Able to do other type of work	Other ^a
	Number	Percent					
<i>Adult children</i>							
1999	16,793	100.0	3.1	22.7	0.7	53.3	20.2
2000	16,853	100.0	2.9	22.9	0.7	51.9	21.7
2001	17,091	100.0	2.5	21.3	0.9	52.9	22.3
2002	20,481	100.0	2.3	21.6	0.8	53.6	21.7
2003	22,997	100.0	2.0	21.8	0.7	53.5	22.0
2004	25,240	100.0	2.0	21.7	0.5	52.6	23.1
2005	24,695	100.0	2.0	21.0	0.4	52.9	23.8

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Disability Research file, 100 percent data.

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2006. Data for the hearing level or above are current through August 2006.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the numbers and percentages will change over time.

Applications with a medical decision may be pending a final nonmedical decision or be subsequently denied for nonmedical reasons.

Data include decisions for Social Security–only applications and applications for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); they do not include SSI-only claims.

Data from 1992 to 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

- a. Applicant has an impairment resulting from drug addiction or alcoholism, provided insufficient medical evidence, failed to cooperate, failed to follow prescribed treatment, did not want to continue development of the claim, or returned to substantial work before disability could be established. Also includes cases denied at or above the hearing level for which the basis of determination is not available.

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